

April 19, 2013

Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) Commissioner Bruce Lemmon, Deputy Commissioner James Basinger, Executive Director Michael Osburn, Edinburgh Correctional Facility Superintendent Fran Osburn and Edinburgh staff joined Major General R. Martin Umbarger, Adjunct General for the State of Indiana, and Colonel Ivan Denton, Camp Atterbury Post Commander for a tour of Camp Atterbury for the possibility of conducting future IDOC leadership meetings there.

(Pictured right) Topics of discussion consisted of offender work crews, level one population and the Department's valued partnership with Camp Atterbury and Muskatatuck.

The tour continued to the Muskatatuck Urban Training Center (MUTC). A presentation of their operation was conducted by Lt. Colonel Roger Lyles, MUTC Post Commander, followed by a tour of MUTC'S unique training facilities.



Can a radio be converted into a cell phone? Is college back on the table for offenders? Do U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Programs really work? Those were just a few of the questions answered during the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) Advisory Board meeting. And the answer is yes to all three questions. Superintendent Richard Brown thanked Internal Affairs Lead Investigator Rob Marshall for his staff's diligence in tracking down cell phones, making the facility safer. Doug Evans of PEN Products told the board how WVCF helped launch the Department's Apprenticeship Program incentive, giving offenders a good chance to find a rewarding career upon release.

At a monthly meeting, the American Legion Post #130, an offender organization at the Indiana State Prison, gave three checks totaling \$2,900 to local charities. The Child Welfare Foundation and Riley Children's Hospital each received a check for \$1,000. The Legion also sponsored three local boys from Michigan City to go to Hoosier Boys State to learn about the workings of State Government.



A Pinwheel Garden was planted in front of the Pendleton Correctional Facility Administration Building in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Prevent Child Abuse America organization has selected the Pinwheel as a symbol for child abuse and neglect prevention, and describes the concept as an uplifting reminder of childhood and the bright futures all children deserve. Approximately 1,100 pinwheels were planted by staff and offenders as a visual demonstration of the facility's support for this cause. (see photo left)

Westville Correctional Facility is planning to expand its garden production this year to donate to local food pantries. Offenders from the Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) unit and in the Therapeutic Community and the Reformatory Residential Re-entry Program are being challenged to contribute back to the community in this effort.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility made a \$1000 donation from their community involvement fund to the Kingsway Community Care Center. The Kingsway Community Care Center provides low cost medical services for uninsured Hendricks County residents. Presenting the check to John Mollaun, Executive Director of the Center, was Superintendent Brian Smith and Assistant Superintendent of Re-entry Phil Slavens.

Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) hosted its annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet with more than 80 volunteers in attendance. Commissioner Lemmon spoke to the volunteers, praising them for their service to the facility and to the offenders. In the past year, volunteers at MCF donated 15,159 hours of their time in the past year to offender programs.

The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility (LJCF) PLUS unit held a fundraiser and donated some of the proceeds to the Emmaus Mission Center in Logansport, IN. The \$250 donation to the center will be used to purchase food for the Mission Center's food bank. The LJCF PLUS unit has donated to the Mission on other occasions, as well donating money and nonperishable food items the unit collected.

The Indiana Women's Prison staff completed its Biggest Loser contest. The weight loss contest ran for three months and raised \$140 for the employee appreciation fund. 36 staff participated and ended with some wonderful results! Winning the title of Biggest Loser was Release Assistant Jayne Byrd with an amazing 10.74% of total body weight lost! A very close second place finish went to Counselor Stephanie Graves with 10.18%, and rounding out the top three with another great result of 9.27% was Officer Damaris Davis. Congratulations and appreciation is extended to all participants. Those completing the contest lost a combined final total weigh lost of 125.6lbs! Everyone who lost weight truly won!

Commissioner Lemmon and Division of Youth Services (DYS) Executive Director Michael Dempsey toured the Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility Intake and Treatment Units. Commissioner Lemmon was presented with a painting of the IDOC seal and Mr. Dempsey was presented with the DYS seal. The paintings were created by students in the vocational program at the facility.